

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-09

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03

H-02 INR-07 L-02 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02

SS-15 USIA-06 IO-10 AGR-05 OES-03 AID-05 COME-00

EB-07 FRB-03 TRSE-00 XMB-02 OPIC-03 CIEP-01 LAB-04

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INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

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DEPT PASS USINTERESTS BAGHDAD AS APPROPRIATE

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TAGS: PFOR, CE

SUBJ: PM PLANS 25-DAY VISIT TO IRAQ, UK, GUYANA AND JAMAICA

1. PRIME MINISTER BEGINS LONG OVERSEAS TOUR

APRIL 23: AFTER FIVE MONTHS' RESPITE FROM TRAVEL

ABROAD, PM BANDARANAIKE DEPARTS SRI LANKA AT 2:00 AM APRIL 23

FOR 25-DAY VISIT TO FOUR COUNTRIES. ALTHOUGH

PRIMARILY INTENDED FOR COMMONWEALTH FOREIGN

MINISTERS CONFERENCE, VISIT WILL ENABLE PM TO

DISCUSS ECONOMIC PROBLEMS, NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE

PREPARATIONS, AND OTHER ISSUES WITH TOP OFFICIALS

IN IRAQ, GUYANA AND PROBABLY UK, AS

WELL AS IN JAMAICA. SHE PLANS TO

RETURN MAY 17.

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2. PRIME MINISTER'S ITINERARY: THREE-DAY OFFICIAL

VISIT TO IRAQ (APRIL 23-26) WILL INCLUDE CALLS ON IRAQI PRESIDENT AHMED HASSAN AL-BAKR AND OTHER TOP OFFICIALS. DISCUSSIONS LIKELY TO CENTER ON PROSPECTS FOR CONTINUED LARGE-SCALE IRAQI PURCHASES OF CEYLON TEA AND PROSPECTS FOR ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE, AS WELL AS 1976 NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS. IT WILL ALSO HELP BALANCE OFF HER VISIT TO IRAN IN OCTOBER 1974. (IRAQ REPORTEDLY HAS GIVEN GSL \$1 MILLION IN HARD CURRENCY TO HELP UNDERWRITE COSTS OF NON-ALIGNED SUMMIT IN COLOMBO NEXT YEAR.) UK STOP APRIL 26-27 ADVERTISED AS CHANCE TO DISCUSS IMPACT ON GSL OF UK ECM MEMBERSHIP, BUT UK HIGH COMMISSION HERE REPORTS NO OFFICIAL CALLS SET AS YET. VISIT TO GUYANA (MAY 8-11) FOLLOWING KINGSTON PM COMMONWEALTH CONFERENCE IS RECENT ADDITION TO SCHEDULE. INFORMAL TALKS ON PROBLEMS OF TROPICAL PRIMARY PRODUCTS EXPORTS AND GUYANA EXPERIENCE AS NON-ALIGNED FOREIGN MINISTERS' CONFERENCE HOST APPEAR LIKELY, BUT GSL OFFICIALS CONCEDE VISIT HAS NO REAL SIGNIFICANCE. RETURN VISIT TO UK BILLED AS ENTIRELY PRIVATE AND RESERVED FOR MEDICAL TREATMENT.

3. UK-GSL TEA ESTATE CONTROVERSY MAY BE AIRED IN KINGSTON: COMMONWEALTH PM CONFERENCE WILL GIVE GSL CONVENIENT FORUM TO DISCUSS NON-ALIGNED CONFERENCE PREPARATIONS WITH PM KAUNDA OF ZAMBIA AND OTHER COMMONWEALTH HEADS OF GOVT IN NON-ALIGNED GROUP WHO ARE LIKELY TO BE PRESENT IN COLOMBO. GSL PREPARED TO SUBMIT PAPERS ON BRAIN DRAIN FROM LDCS AND "ROLE OF YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT". BEYOND THIS, GSL-UK BILATERAL DISCUSSIONS IN CONTEXT OF KINGSTON MEETING MAY BE IMPORTANT. HIGH COMMISSION OFFICIALS HERE INDICATE UK WILL EXPRESS TO MRS BANDARANAIKE UK UNHAPPINESS RE RECENT GSL MOVES TO TAKE OVER STERLING TEA PROPERTIES INVOLVED IN LONDON STOCK EXCHANGE TRANSACTIONS. UK OFFICIALS ALSO PREPARED TO SOUND OUT GSL ON VALIDITY OF ASSURANCE GIVEN UK HIGH COMMISSIONER LATE LAST YEAR THAT STERLING COMPANIES WOULD NOT BE NATIONALIZED DURING CURRENT MINISTRY. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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(IN RECENT WEEKS GSL HAS MOVED TO NATIONALIZE UTILITIES COMPANY AND SEVERAL TEA ESTATES OWNED BY STERLING INTERESTS. GSL HAS CHARGED THAT THEIR OWNERS ENGAGED IN ILLEGAL CURRENCY TRANSACTIONS AND IN SHARES TRANSFERS PREJUDICIAL TO SRI LANKA'S NATIONAL INTERESTS.)

4. GSL DELEGATION: PRIME MINISTER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED

BY DR MACKIE RATWATTE, WHO IS HER BROTHER AND PRIVATE SECRETARY; HER DAUGHTER, SUNETHRA RUPASINGHE (PM'S COORDINATING SECRETARY); TISSA WIJEYERATNE, ADDITIONAL SECRETARY IN MINISTRY OF DEFENCE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MDFA); N. BALASUBRAMANIAM, DIRECTOR WEST DIVISION, MDFA; AND LEELANANDA DE SILVA, SENIOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY, MINISTRY OF PLANNING.

5. HOME FRONT DEVELOPMENTS IN PM'S ABSENCE: MINISTER OF IRRIGATION, POWER AND HIGHWAYS MAITHRIPALA SENANAYEKE WILL ASSUME TRADITIONAL ROLE OF ACTING PM IN MRS BANDARANAIKE'S ABSENCE. ATTENTION, HOWEVER, IS FOCUSING ON MINISTER OF JUSTICE FELIX DIAS BANDARANAIKE WHO WILL FASHION GSL'S RESPONSE TO FINAL PREPARATIONS FOR BIG UNITED FRONT (UF) MAY DAY CELEBRATIONS. RUMORS OF PM'S NEGOTIATIONS WITH UNITED NATIONAL PARTY TO FORM CENTER-RIGHT COALITION, ALTHOUGH ROUNDLY DENIED BY GSL, HAVE MADE LEFT-WING ELEMENTS IN UF SUSPICIOUS, AND LEFTIST LABOR UNIONS PLAN MASSIVE MAY DAY DEMONSTRATION TO IMPRESS ON PM THEIR OPPOSITION TO ANY DIALOGUE WITH RIGHT. VIOLENCE UNLIKELY, BUT F.D. BANDARANAIKE BELIEVED PREPARED TO TAKE STRONG COUNTER-MEASURES.
VAN HOLLEN

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